



0684.003210

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
HIDEKI MATSUMOTO, ET AL.) : Examiner: S. Lee
Application No.: 09/826,171) : Group Art Unit: 2852
Filed: April 5, 2001) : Allowed: August 16, 2004
For: A DEVELOPING DEVICE, A PROCESS) : Confirmation No.: 7813
CARTRIDGE, AND AN ELECTROPHOTO-) : October 13, 2004
GRAPHIC IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS)
FOR DETECTING AN AMOUNT OF)
DEVELOPER)

MAIL STOP Issue Fee

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Request for Acknowledgment of Entry of September 2, 2004 Amendment After Allowance

Sir:

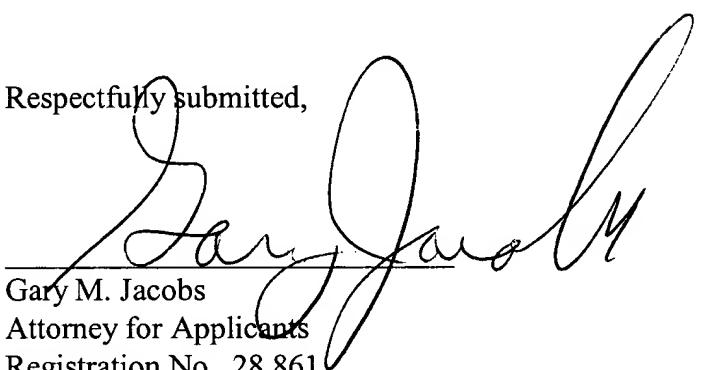
On September 2, 2004 Applicants filed an Amendment After Allowance. To-date, Applicants have not received any communication acknowledging receipt, examination, or entry of this document by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a paper acknowledging receipt of the September 2, 2004 Amendment After Allowance. And, since the Amendment After Allowance merely renders Claim 44 in conformance with other independent claims, Applicants also request that this Amendment be entered in accordance with MPEP

§ 714.16. For the Examiner's convenience, attached is a duplicate, signed copy of the September 2, 2004 Amendment After Allowance, and a stamped postcard receipt establishing the filing of this document on that date.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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Comment on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Sir:

The Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance attached to the January 20, 2004

Notice of Allowance states that the primary reason for the allowance of Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8-11, 13-22, 24, 26, 27, 29-32, 34-44, 46, 48-50, 52-55, 57, and 59-66 is "the inclusion of a first electrode and a second electrode. The first electrode is disposed such that the lowest end thereof takes a position above the second electrode when the developing device is mounted to the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus. An electrical signal is generated

in accordance with an electrostatic capacity between the first electrode and second electrode when the first electrode or second electrode is supplied with a voltage from the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus, and is measured by the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus to detect a remaining amount of the developer."

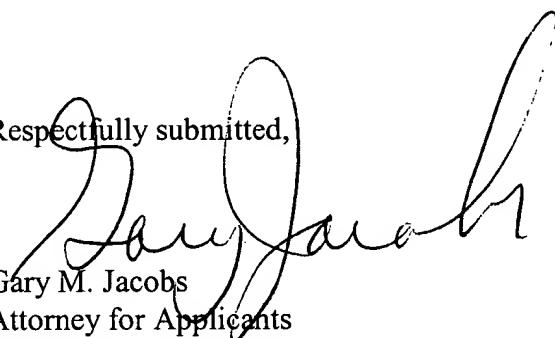
But the independent claims recite that the first electrode is disposed such that at least a lower end thereof takes a position above the second electrode, rather than reciting that first electrode is disposed such that the lowest end thereof takes a position above the second electrode.

In addition, independent Claims 6, 13, 27, 34, 44, 49, 50, 57, and 59 do not recite "An electrical signal is generated in accordance with an electrostatic capacity between the first electrode and second electrode when the first electrode or second electrode is supplied with a voltage from the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus, and is measured by the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus to detect a remaining amount of the developer."

Nevertheless, all of these claims are allowable for the unique combination of features recited therein.

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Respectfully submitted,



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